

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

My Name is Corey Logsdon and I am a community member in Coos Bay who relies on farmstand and community based agriculture small farm infrastructure to feed myself and my children. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. Farm stands are a vital part of connecting the public with our food system and building an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork. But HB 4153 would restrict who is allowed to have a farm stand, replace current definitions with Farm Stores, and give large land owners privileges at the expense of small farm stands in Oregon. We need to find a better solution.

I care about this because small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms. I care because I know that the path forward for financially struggling families like mine is to create more space and opportunity for local, community based food systems to thrive. This is the only viable way to further sustainable farming and feeding in the face of climate disaster and capitalist greed. I care about this for all those who, like my family, experienced greater health and wellbeing when our access to local, small farm produce became a reality instead of a dream. I refuse to take a step backwards when it comes to food access. Why should large acreage farmers gain privileges at the expense of smaller acre farms? Why should a small farm be any less legitimate than a large farm when it comes to defining farm use? If America can be a land of opportunities, we must defend access to food and nutrition that is local, seasonal, in harmony with the land and the people who live on it.

We are asking you to not place a higher burden on the smallest farms. This bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms in order for larger operations to be able to host more events. This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,

Corey Logsdon

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